



What is a paragraph?

A paragraph is a group of sentences about one topic.

 This is my friend, Dave. He is from the UK. He likes reading and swimming.

What is the topic sentence?

The topic sentence tells us the main idea of the paragraph. The topic sentence usually comes at the beginning of the paragraph.

 Chris is famous for his life story. He used to be poor and homeless. Now he is a successful businessman, writer, and speaker.





What are supporting sentences?

Supporting sentences give us more information about the topic sentence.

- They usually follow the topic sentence, they come after it.
- They must be related to the main idea.

For example: Let's say we're writing a paragraph about "Why the sun is so important?".

The sun is so important in our lives. (TS) The sun provides heat to Earth. (SS) Without the sun, Earth would be a cold wasteland. (SS)

(TS) >> Topic Sentence

(SS) >> Supporting Sentences



B. Over to You

- 1. Match each topic sentence (1-5) with the correct supporting sentence (a-e).
 - 1. Viola Vaughn is a social entrepreneur.
 - 2. The schools distribute free school supplies.
 - 3. Each school has an after-school program.
 - 4. Viola's business grew quickly.
 - 5. Dr. Vaughn has a traveling library that goes to small towns once a month.
 - a. They give away notebooks, paper, and pens.
 - b. There are over 2,500 girls now.
 - c. She gives education to girls living in poverty.
 - d. Every afternoon, teachers tutor the girls.
 - e. Local children can check out books for free.



2. Read the topic sentence and the first supporting sentence. Then read each sentence in the chart, and decide if it is related to the main idea or not. Check (\lor) the box in the correct column.

Topic Sentence: Jack Weil started a Western-style clothing business in 1946.

First Supporting Sentence: He became one of the oldest businessmen in the United States.

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	Related	Not Related
1. Weil named the company Rackmount Ranch Wear.		
2. People in big cities do not wear Western-style clothing.		
3. The store's most popular product was a cowboy-style shirt with snaps.		
4. Weil's granddaughter had a dog named Rocky.		
5. Rackmount Ranch Wear distributed the shirts all over the world.		
6. Many cowboys live in Colorado.		
7. Weil worked at the store every day until he was 107 years old.		
8. People over 80 should not work.		



3. Check!
1. A is a group of sentences about one topic.
sentences in a paragraph give more about the topic sentence. They are directly related to the main
C. Practice
1. Read each topic sentence. Check (V) the best supporting sentence.
1. Jack Weil named his company Rackmount Ranch Wear. a. He chose the name because he loved the Rocky Mountains. b. He lived in Colorado.
2. Weil was one of the oldest businessmen in America. a. Famous actors wore his shirts. b. He worked until he was 107 years old.
3. Jack Weil enjoyed talking to customers. a. For example, he liked to talk about his granddaughter's dog, Rocky. b. People bought many shirts.
4. Rackmount Ranch Wear sold Western-style clothing a. The most popular product was the cowboy-style shirt with snaps. b. Not many businessmen wear Western-style shirts.
5. Fred DeLuca had a new concept when he opened the first Subway restaurant. a. He was born in 1948. b. He wanted to use very fresh food.
6. The Subway restaurant company is very successful. a. There are over 33,000 locations in 92 countries. b. They make bread every day.





- 2. Match each topic sentence (1-5) with two correct supporting sentences (a-j).
 - 1. My friend has a great business idea.
 - 2. Students donate used books at our college bookstore.
 - Many children living in poverty don't get new clothes very often.
 - 4. My group is working on a report about children in Africa.
 - 5. After two years, the store had no more money.
 - a. They sometimes don't have food, too.
 - b. The store gives the books to students in need.
 - c. They did not make a profit.
 - d. She wants to sell coffee in our local park
 - e. We will also make suggestions about how we can help them.
 - f. Their families have very little money.
 - g. So they had to shut down.
 - h. Maybe she'll even sell cakes and cookies, too.
 - i. They also supply pens and pencils.
 - j. We are going to write about all the facts we find.





The Answer

B. Over to You

1-

- 1, c
- 2. a
- 3, d
- 4. 6
- 5. e

2-

- 1. related
- 2. not related
- 3. related
- 4. not related
- 5. related
- 6, not related
- 7. related
- 8. not related

3-

- 1. paragraph
- 2. Supporting, information, idea

C. Practice

1_

- 1. a
- 2. b
- 3. a
- 4. a
- 5. b
- 6. a

2-

- 1. d, h
- 2. b, i
- 3. a, f
- 4. e, j
- 5. c, 9